

## Eco Council Newsletter February 2023

Eco Council had a very exciting meeting this half term! Scarlett in Year 2 explains:

*In Eco Council we borrowed a machine called a thermal imaging camera and if it (the screen) was blue or purple it would be cold and if it was red, it would be hot. We saw that all the windows were cold. If a door was open but had plastic things covering the door it was still hot.*

Below are some of the images we took on our walk around school.

### Windows:



The image on the left shows a window with the blind partially drawn. We noticed that the blind was keeping the heat in. Windows with blinds up were letting a lot more heat out.

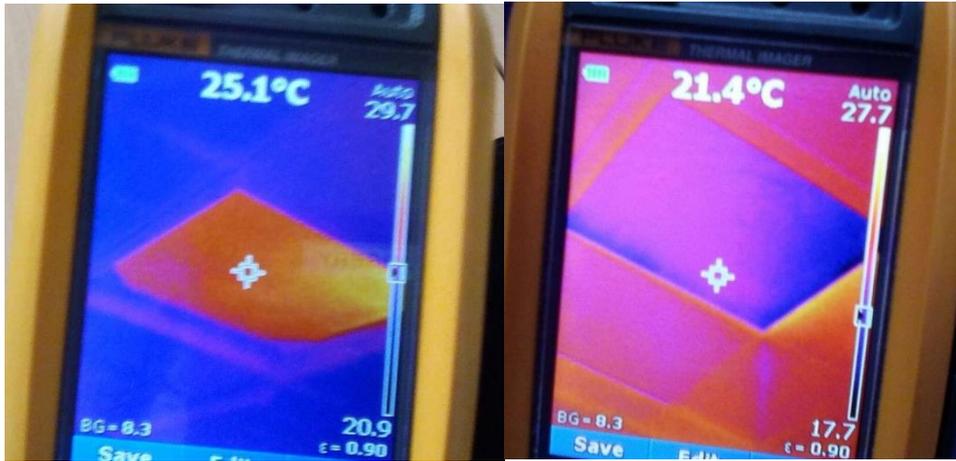
### Doors:



Some classrooms have plastic flaps to help keep the heat in when the door is open. The image on the left shows a door with no insulation. The next image shows a door that was closed with the plastic strips covering the door, the third image is the door open but the strips closed, and the image on the right shows a door closed with the strips pulled back.

We found that doors were less insulated than windows, so more heat escaped. We could see that whether the door was open or closed, the plastic flaps helped to keep the cold out.

## Skylights:



The image on the left is a skylight that had been covered, and the image on the right was a skylight that was not covered.

The skylights were harder to photograph as if lights had been left on, the camera picked up the heat from the lights too. But we found that in classrooms where the skylights were covered, the coverings were doing a good job of insulating the room too.

### **What can we do in school?**

The Eco Council recommend that teachers should consider putting their blinds partially down, to still let in some light but to keep the cold out. They also recommend that doors left open (for example during lunch times) should be fitted with the plastic strips.

### **What can you do at home?**

At home, you might want to make sure you shut curtains or blinds once it is dark outside.

If you were interested in doing this at home, there is information here about how to borrow the thermal imaging camera:

<https://sustainablestalbans.org/efficient-buildings/thermal-imaging-camera/>

We would like to thank Sustainable St Albans for allowing us to borrow the camera.

Best wishes and keep warm,

The Eco Council